



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

Trustees' Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ending

31st December 2020



Annual report for year ending 31st December 2020



Covid 19 strikes

Like most of the UK and certainly those in the charity sector, the year ending December 2020 was a difficult one fraught with many unnecessary frustrations on the way.

We started the boating year with a much needed publicity incursion into our major client base, the schools of the Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Royal Kingston, with a personalised letter and flyer sent to every school head teacher detailing where we operated and what we could offer them in terms of a unique experience on the river, normally associated with elite rowing clubs, universities and public schools, where we could teach essential life skills to their pupils at minimum cost.

We also made contact with the local organisation Achieving for Children, which signpost schools to activities.

Literally, both of these approaches were making an impression with the first interested schools and academies soon responding, many of them newly formed without their own outdoor sports activity centres, when the first Covid shutdown was announced and that of course continued through the year up to July 2021 when, just a few weeks before the end of term the rules relaxed sufficiently for us to contact a few local schools and shoehorn in some sessions.

A further complication was the closing of Hammersmith Bridge, which stopped traffic under and over the bridge for safety reasons, putting an end to events like the Great River Race for which, through corporate involvement, we had trained teams, lent boats and generated funds that subsidised the school bookings.

However, the trustees had recognised at the end of the previous year that both our client footprint and income sources were far too risk adverse, relying on a single client source, schools, and a single major event, the Great River Race, for funds and that there needed to be a complete diversification of our activities in those areas.

The year was not wasted and we took the opportunity to improve our governance, updating policies and structuring our databases to comply with GDPR so that confidential matters were kept so and that our volunteers were able to access information that was pertinent to them.

We registered a further working name of Thames Community Rowing, aimed at attracting non-school participation and concentrating on areas like sensory impairment, women's only groups, fitness sessions and disadvantaged groups and we also carried out a competition for a new logo which was won by Isabella Spicer, a teenager from Twickenham with another Student, Ella Harrison, from Shepperton, a close second.

The plan agreed is to prepare the grounds for using Thames Community Rowing as an alternative name for non-school clients when the restrictions imposed by Covid 19 are relaxed in 2021.



The winning logo design by
Isabella

We continued our liaison with The Traditional Boat Society and were rewarded with a grant which was in excess of £20,000 following a long and successful presentation at their annual general meeting to build a new skerry to be located in the Reading Area.

The new Skerry Floreat under construction in Richmond.



Following our previous survey of the Reading area, we started negotiations on the use of the Sea Cadet Corps water base at Blakes Lock Reading, agreeing terms that were detailed in a memorandum of understanding the draft of which was completed for discussion in November with a view to signing off the following year that would give us tenure for the next five years against a defined

We continued to have meetings with what was known then as The Environment Trust to reinforce our interest in using a derelict Victorian deep-water boathouse on the Twickenham embankment with the provision of a floating pontoon to the east and the addition of a rear storage area and toilet arrangement. To this end we provided the architects and surveyors with a means of accessing the boat house from the river.



Thames Eyot Boat House.

During the year we supported another Charity with the free loan of a number of our boats and coaches in order that they could continue with a charity fundraising paddle, which was about to be curtailed due to the closure of Hammersmith bridge. This event occurred in a short break in the Covid shut downs and necessitated the consideration of covid risk assessments and the recording of crews for track and trace purposes.

We ended the year in a much more buoyant mood than when we started knowing we had put the year to good use, had gained funds that supported the refurbishment of our boats and also the purchase of much needed covers for all the boats to offer protection from the weather during the long periods of non-use.

ALL wrapped up and nowhere to go.

Roll on 2021!



During the year we added to our Trustees with a new and well qualified trustee, Chris Shaw, who, along with our Charity administrator, Chris Leeson, started leading us in a much-needed transition to a more viable charity with a sense of purpose for the future backed up with David Golton heading funding.

My thanks to all the other trustees that have shown commitment and guidance during the year, Vic Griffiths, Peter Dolan and Patrick Ducker as treasurer.

Thanks also to our President and founder Bamber Gascoigne and also to Peter Dolan, both Patrons of the charity, for their financial contributions to the charity which are greatly appreciated, especially in a year when clients dried up and funds also.

Robin Corti

Chair, Skerries for Schools and Thames Community Rowing.

8th August 2021

Annual Report, and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
- To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Patrons

Bamber Gascoigne	Founder & Patron
Peter Dolan	Patron

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

	Robin Corti	Chairman & Secretary
	Peter Dolan	
	Patrick Ducker	Treasurer
To 11 th October 2020	Matthew Ford	
	David Golton	
	Victor Griffiths	
From 11 th October	Chris Shaw	

Advisers

Steve Kemsley	Operations Manager
Mark Edwards	Master Boat Builder
Chris Leeson	Administration

Charity Registration Number:	1162659
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent
Custodian Trustee	None
Principal Address:	c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN
Website:	www.skerries4schools.org

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the “Legacy Charity”) with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Investment and Reserves Policy

The Trustees’ cautious approach to risk extends to their investments; day-to-day funds are kept with a bank covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and the Trust has no cash transactions. The Trustees do not consider that a specific Reserves Policy is necessary at this time.

Financial Review

By means of a General Vesting Document, dated 22nd December 2015 the unregistered (Legacy) charity Skerries For Schools transferred the following assets and liabilities to the new CIO on 1st January 2016:

Four skerries donated or purchased for use, by means of grants, by the Charity for training, tuition or hire & reward. All with oars:

- S4S One And All (50% owned with Mark Edwards); S4S Caroline; S4S Jim Clarke; S4S John Bryant
- One Trailer, suitable for towing on the public highway, for the transportation of up to two skerries.
All valued at £54,400.00
- Cash at Bank £11,757.09 (received 8th June 2016)
- Current Liabilities: £26,600.00
- Long Term Liability: £ 8,000.00 (Interest free loan without repayment date)

These were formally accepted at the meeting of Trustees on 31st January 2016.

The CIO does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the trailer and skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

Operations

In order to fulfil its objectives the Charity arranges the training of volunteers to British Rowing Standards. All coaches are subject to enhanced clearance from the DBS and are given First Aid Training.

Skerries are fixed seated rowboats designed for less experienced crews, with greater stability than a skiff or wherry. They carry a team of eight rowers, a coach and up to two extra passengers (e.g. teaching staff).

Participating schools are able to book coached sessions in Skerries, for which they pay an hourly rate, through the charity's website. The rate has been set to recover the Charity's marginal costs. Local Boroughs have been approached to help fund schools who might have had difficulties in meeting costs.

To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge. To enable schools in the Kingston area to use the skerries, and to make use of the non-tidal section of the Thames, the use of a second base has been arranged near Kingston Bridge.

A feasibility study is being conducted with a view to establishing a base in the Reading Area in 2021.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Volunteers Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Conflicts Of Interest Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

The number of skerry sessions booked remained steady in 2016, but has showed an increase during 2017 and 2018 but reduced slightly in 2019. No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual skerries booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions. – some schools use two skerries at the same time - were

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
32	35	48	60	48	None

Sessions with Schools were not possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions
Other sessions were promotional or “taster” sessions..

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and DBS Clearance of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions, detailed above, for Schools at minimum or no cost.

**Independent examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 10 & 11

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

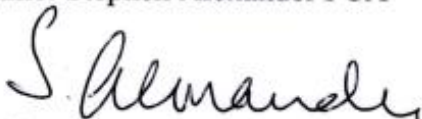
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Stephen Alexander FCA



Address: 5, Cole Park View, Twickenham, TW1 1JW

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity 1162659

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total 2019 £
Incoming Resources				
Donations & Gift Aid Repaid	9,545	1,000	10,545	2,364
Sponsorship of Skerry "Caroline"			-	-
Donation - for Skeries Purchase		17,592	17,592	7,536
Use of Skerries	505		505	16,025
Total Incoming Resources	10,050	18,592	28,642	25,925
Outgoing Resources				
Direct Activities				
Skerries etc. (Acquisition)		15,312	15,312	7,536
Operational Costs	11,673		11,673	9,728
Promotional Fees & Costs	-	88	88	2,000
Repayment of Short Term Loans		-	-	-
Total for Direct Activities	11,673	15,400	27,073	19,264
Overheads & Administration	60	-	60	79
Total Outgoing Resources	11,733	15,400	27,133	19,343
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources	(1,684)	3,192	1,509	6,582
Change in Fixed Assests				
Construction of S4S Floreat	22,848		22,848	
Net Movement in Funds	21,164	3,192	24,357	6,582
Funds Brought Forward	53,806	16,000	69,806	63,224
Funds Carried Forward	74,970	19,192	94,163	69,806
of which				
Tanagible Assets	77,248		77,248	54,400
Current Assets	(2,278)	19,192	16,915	15,406
	74,970	19,192	94,163	69,806

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity 1162659

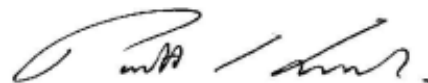
Balance Sheet

	as at 31-Dec-20 £	as at 1-Jan-20 £
Fixed Assets		
Tanagible Assets	54,400	54,400
add S4S Floreat	22,848	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Fixed Assets	77,248	54,400
Current Assets		
Debtors	350	
Cash in Hand and at Bank	24,625	41,658
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	24,975	41,658
Current Liabilities (due with one year)	(60)	(18,252)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Current Assets	24,914	23,406
Long Term Liabilities	(8,000)	(8,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	94,163	69,806
	=====	=====
represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	74,970	53,806
Restricted Funds	19,192	16,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	94,163	69,806
	=====	=====

Signed



Robin Corti, Chairman
19th July 2021



Patrick Ducker, Treasurer
19th July 2021